Broken Pins of the RV&Co. Cuban Perfin

Robert Littrell (#3992)

Many perfin collectors dislike perfins which have missing holes. Depending on the rarity of the perfin and number of broken pins, such may end up as "seconds," "traders," or even discarded. On one common Cuban perfin, **RV&Co.**, I noticed certain missing holes appeared repeatedly, so I decided to take a second look.

Ricardo Veloso & Cía was a company that used perfin stamps from 1917 to 1948. So far, I have counted **RV&Co.** perfins on 75 different postage stamps and 9 different postal tax stamps. Libreria Cervantes was Ricardo Veloso Guerra's Havana bookstore, founded in 1910. In 1926, Veloso merged his company with Cultural S.A. and expanded business in Cuba as well as abroad. The wide proliferation of stamps and covers is second only to Cuba's Drogería Sarra (**SARRA**) and a large representative sample has allowed this study.

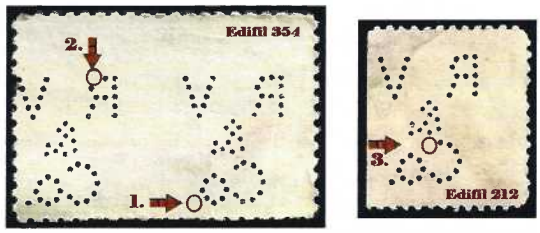
I found there are 3 varieties of the **RV&Co.** perfin caused by broken pins. They are:

1. Missing period after the "Co." You can see that in the illustration on the right side of Edifil #354 (Scott #374). Note that this variety is beside another variety on the same stamp as discussed in item #2 below.
2. Third punch from the left on the top of the letter "R." You can see that on the left side of Edifil #354.
3. Upper right punch of the letter "C." You can see that in Edifil #212 (Scott #272).

Does a pin break make a major variety? To me, obviously not. Yet because the pin break in the **DUN** variety occurs on a "code hole," it is included in *The World Perfin Catalog - American Section* listing. (The Perfins Club defines "code or control hole" as an additional hole extra to the normal design.) The **RV&Co.** perfin is not too different in that one of these three pin breaks wipes out an entire character, albeit only a period.

I have seen 10 of the Variety 1 (missing period) out of approximately 100 patterns which leads me to hypothesize that the company owned a perforating machine that had 10 dies. (The choices would be 1, 2, 5, or 10 dies.) This would statistically yield a 10% chance of encountering this (or any other) **RV&Co.** variety, assuming that few other pin breaks occur over time.

[Editor's Note: For those of you, like me, who are not familiar with Cuba stamps, "Edifil" refers to the ***Edifil*** *Catálogo de Sellos de* ***Cuba*** (Edifil Catalog of the Stamps of Cuba).]



The Broken Pins of RV&Co. Perfins (Actual size.)

Notices from the Editor

Ken Masters (LM#3589)

September/October 2013 *Bulletin*:

Normally, I try to mail the current issue of the *Bulletin* very close to the first day of the month of that issue - for instance by July 3 for this one. However, due to the late August date of this year's Convention and the fact that I anticipate attending it, the September/October 2013 issue will be delayed until around September 11. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Membership Roster Update:

As a way to assist and promote contact between members, The Perfins Club has a long standing practice of publishing a current "Membership Roster" every two years. Therefore, we plan to publish the 2013-2014 Roster in the upcoming November/December 2013 *Bulletin*. If any of your information needs to be updated, especially your email address, please forward the corrections to our Secretary, Ken Rehfeld, by September 25, 2013.

The Roster will be published as Supplemental Pages in the *Bulletin* and located in the center of the issue to facilitate easy removal. It **will not** be distributed to any non-member, including philatelic libraries, other publications, etc., that might receive complimentary copies of the *Bulletin* or in promotional copies that we distribute to prospective members. However, if you prefer that your name and/or other information **not** be included in the published Membership Roster, please advise the Secretary or Editor. Our contact information is on page 70.